United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

September 2, 2003

Mr. Joe Trow
Exemption 6

Dear Mr. Trow:

On July 1, 2003, you filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request OS-2003-00764, seeking "records...that establish astronomically the Montana Initial Point as the same point for all governments: Federal, State, County and local."

On July 9, 2003, I acknowledged your request, advised you of your fee status under the FOIA, advised you how we were interpreting your request, and took a 10-working-day time extension.

I am writing today in partial response to your request. In searching its records in response to your request, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, did not locate any "records...that establish astronomically the Montana Initial Point as the same point for all governments: Federal, State, County, and local." However, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Department of Commerce, publishes the official data sheet containing the accepted geodetic position for the initial point of Montana. A copy of the NGS datasheet is enclosed in full. Also enclosed is a copy of the USGS, Rocky Mountain Mapping Center's letter of August 8, 1997, responding to your correspondence of May 30, 1997, regarding questions about the Montana state boundary and initial point to which all Montana Public Land survey System (PLSS) cadastral surveys have been directly or indirectly tied.

The FOIA fee for the processing of your request within the Office of the Secretary thus far is $65.45, calculated as follows:

2	hours of professional search time	@ $ 8.10 per 1/4 hour
5	pages of photocopying	@ $ .13 per page

However, insofar as we have classed your request as an "other-use" request, and have determined that you are entitled to receive 2 hours of search time without charge, and 100 pages of photocopying without charge, your fee for the processing of this request thus far is $0.00.

As I indicated to you in our telephone conversation on August 29, 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has informed us that it has no responsive records in its Washington office, but is currently in consultation with its Montana office to determine if any records exist there. You should expect to hear from us shortly with respect to the outcome of this records search.

In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the status of your request within the Office of the Secretary, you may contact me by phone at 202-208-6045, by fax at 202- 219-2374, by e-mail at osfoia@nbc.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, MS 1413 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Alternatively, you can provide us with a phone number at which you can be reached, along with the time of day that you prefer to be contacted, and we can attempt to contact you, at our expense, to answer any questions that you might have, regarding your request. Within the Office of the Secretary, we are committed to providing you, our customer, with the highest quality of service possible.

Sincerely,

Sue EllenSloca
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer

Enclosures

PRIVACY ACT notice: Before you choose to contact us, electronically, there are a few things you should know. The information you submit, including your electronic address, may be seen by various people. We will scan a copy of your request into our electronic OS FOIA administrative/image file. We will key the information that you provide to us into our electronic OS FOIA tracking file. We may share it with other individuals, both within and without the

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Department, involved in Freedom of Information Act administration. You may be contacted by any of these individuals. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or private individuals, we may be required by law to disclose some of the information you submit. Also, e-mail is not necessarily secure against interception. If your communication is very sensitive, or includes personal information like your bank account, charge card, or social security number, you might want to send it by postal mail, instead.